

NEBRASKA Library Compass



Vol. 17 No. 1

Library Broadband Builds Nebraska Communities

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The Nebraska Library Commission's public computer center project, **Library Broadband Builds Nebraska Communities** was a major activity during the biennium. The three-year project (August 1, 2010 to July 31, 2013) is designed to expand broadband capacity; upgrade public computing resources in libraries; and advance access to employment, learning, health information, and E-Government services. The U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), provided **\$2,416,403**—matched by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation with **\$1,251,786**. The total project budget is **\$3,668,189**.

During the biennium, the Nebraska Library Commission expended more than \$1,794,000 on computer equipment and software, with 141 library buildings (96%) receiving their full equipment orders. Furniture, including \$196,000 in computer desks and chairs, has been deployed to 122 libraries. Broadband upgrades demonstrate significant improvement in community access to information. The goal of forty-five upgrades was surpassed, with seventy-eight upgrades completed and at least twelve more planned for FY 2013. Of seventy-eight upgrades, the average speed moved from 2.9M to 17.6M—a 14.6M increase. Thirteen libraries report offering new wireless networks for public use.

Thirty-two libraries completed electrical/wiring upgrades. One hundred and five libraries held open houses and other events to celebrate the new public computer centers.

Library Broadband Builds NEBRASKA COMMUNITIES

BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation

Nebraska
Library Commission

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One key to the utilization of the public computer centers is ongoing delivery of online and face-to-face training. Nebraska Library Commission provided training, including Marketing and Communication Gymnasium, Technology Planning Summer Camps, E-Rate Sessions, and ADA Software Training. The following Educational Programming Partners are now offering training at the libraries:

- Center for Rural Affairs
- Center for Rural Entrepreneurship
- Nebraska's Community Colleges
- Nebraska Court Administrator's Office
- National Network of Libraries of Medicine: MidContinental Region
- Nebraska Community Foundation
- Nebraska Department of Labor
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension
- University of Nebraska Medical Center, McGoogan Library of Medicine

See <http://lbbnc.nebraska.gov> for a complete list of classes on the Blog Calendar.

Highlights:

- **\$2,514,130 of \$3,668,189 (68%) invested in Nebraska communities, with 64% of grant period elapsed**
- **1105 public computer workstations deployed—496 replacement and 609 new stations**
- **27,990 (average) public computer users per week at the 147 library buildings**



From the Director...

2010-2012 Highlights

Two years ago, in August 2010, the Nebraska Library Commission received news that its application for a Broadband Technology Opportunity Program grant was approved by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration. The three-year grant, made possible by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act appropriations, included \$2.4 million from the U.S. Department of Commerce along with \$1.2 million in matching funds contributed by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The grant request was big and ambitious, and has been well worth the time and effort. The 140 Nebraska public libraries participating in the project – recruited from a slightly larger number of eligible libraries – have responded with enthusiasm, creativity, and great effort in putting to use the public access computers, software, peripherals, broadband service upgrades, and programming made possible by the grant.

Now in its final year, the *Library Broadband Builds Nebraska Communities* project has exceeded expectations in several respects. Most important is the availability of 1,100 new computers delivered to supplement libraries' current inventories or replace outdated equipment. Broadband service upgrades will be accomplished in double the number of libraries estimated at the project's outset. The involvement and efforts of project partner organizations have contributed beneficial training for library staff and the public, and have provided valuable services and information. It is gratifying to read or hear stories about how people are using the project-supported technology for job seeking, education, legal research, health information, personal interests, and many other uses. Project participating libraries are better equipped, better connected, and better prepared to provide public access computing for their customers. We are grateful to all involved for their effort and commitment to the project.

(continued on page 18)

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Nebraska Library Commissioners: Steve Batty, Chair, McCook, term expires 2015; Charles Gordon, Vice-Chair, Fremont, term expires 2013; Diane Boyd, South Sioux City, term expires 2015; Sherry Crow, Kearney, term expires 2013; Molly Fisher, term expires 2015; and Patricia Gross, Bayard, term expires 2013. Commission meetings are held the second Friday of every other month or as scheduled by public action of the board.

This publication was supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act.

Nebraska Library Commission Funding July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2012

State of Nebraska Funds	\$ 7,178,537
Federal Funds	7,347,304
Cash Funds	2,799,916
Total	\$17,325,757

Grants Funded through the Nebraska Library Commission July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2012

Braille Services (Utah State Library)	\$ 6,525
Collaborative Summer Library Program	9,328
Continuing Education and Training	36,965
Electronic Information Resources	835,099
United for Libraries	31,238
Gates Foundation-funded Grants to Libraries	70,200
Interlibrary Loan (Lender Compensation)	173,193
Local Library Public Computer Centers (NTIA/BTOP/Gates)	2,219,584
LSTA/Library Improvement	181,082
Motion Picture Licensing for Public Libraries	32,504
Nebraska Center for the Book	10,665
Nebraska Leadership Institute	18,000
Nebraska Library Association	3,500
Nebraska Educational Media Association	2,500
Nebraska Association of Schools	480
OverDrive Downloadable Books	24,000
Public Library Statistical Reporting Software	4,125
Regional Library Systems	1,211,510
Scholarships: MLS, LTA, MEd, BA	164,484
State Aid to Public Libraries	767,844
Youth Grants for Excellence	45,524
Total	\$5,848,350

Note: Grant funds may be distributed over more than one fiscal year.

Thank You, Commissioners

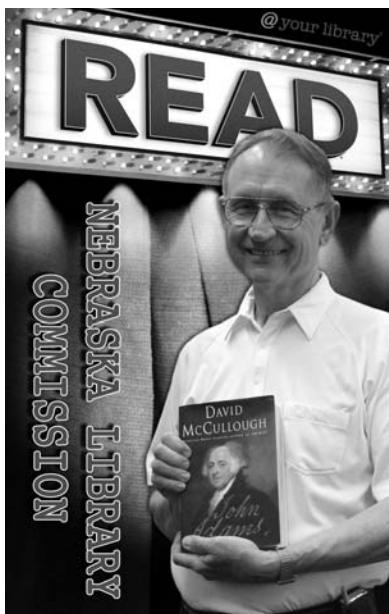


The Commissioners worked on the development of the LSTA Long-Range Plan for 2013-2017.

The Nebraska Library Commission staff members want to thank the Library Commissioners who served during the biennium for their commitment to improving Nebraska library services. As representatives of the public, the Commissioners are the primary force ensuring that the agency is fully responsible for the statewide promotion, development, and coordination of library programs and services in accordance with nationally acceptable library standards. Their primary areas of focus involve policy making, director relations, strategic planning, fiscal matters,

operations, and advocacy.

Commissioners are appointed by the governor and serve three-year terms.



John Dale, former Nebraska Library Commission Chair, served two terms and continues to advocate for Nebraska libraries.

Meetings are held the second Friday of every other month or as scheduled by public action of the board. For more information, including meeting minutes and agendas, see the Library Commission Website at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov>, search on Commission Meetings. Commissioners who served during the biennium were: Steve Batty, McCook; Diane Boyd, South Sioux City; Sherry Crow, Kearney; John Dale, Lincoln; Charles Gordon, Fremont; Patricia Gross, Bayard; and Molly Fisher, Lincoln

Ed. Note: Due to state budget reductions, future print editions of the **NCompass Newsletter** will be limited to the Annual/Biennial Report editions, until further notice. To receive regular information from the Nebraska Library Commission, subscribe to the weekly **NCompass E-Newslist**. Fill out the form at <http://eepurl.com/HSKX> to stay

abreast of Nebraska library activities. Receive a weekly e-mail in your inbox (currently Mondays around 9:00 a.m. CT) with a short summary of each posting on the **NCompass Blog** from the previous week. Click on the headline in the e-mail message to read the complete content of the blogpost and to comment.

Library Commission Staff Transitions

Arrivals

- **Angela Gunther-Gonzalez**, Grant Compliance Officer
- **JoAnn McManus**, Project and Program Coordinator
- **Holly Woldt**, Technology Support Manager
- **Diane Wotipka**, Accountant
- **Audrey York**, Grant Compliance Officer

Departures

- **Doreen Kuhlmann**, Business Manager
- **Maria Medrano-Nehls**, Administrative Secretary
- **Julie Pinnell**, Librarian
- **Jeannette Powell**, Staff Assistant
- **Terry Raburn**, Panhandle Library Services Coordinator
- **Audrey York**, Grant Compliance Officer

Reassignment

- **Sue Biltoft**, from Accountant to Business Manager

Employee of the Year

- **2011 – Evelyn Kubert**, Interlibrary Loan Staff Assistant



Evelyn Kubert

- **2012 – Angela Gunther-Gonzalez**, Grant Compliance Officer



Angela Gunther-Gonzalez

Manager of the Year

- **2012 – Vern Buis**, Computer Services Director



Vern Buis



Nebraska OverDrive Libraries

Nebraska Overdrive Thrives

In addition to downloadable audio books, Nebraska OverDrive Libraries (<http://nebraska.lib.overdrive.com>) expanded the Nebraska libraries' shared collection to include downloadable eBooks. On July 13, 2010, library customers had a choice of 170 eBook titles; by July 2012, the collection included 4,987 copies. These eBooks circulated 100,740 times. The audio book collection increased to 4,174 copies, with circulations reaching 111,279. The number of participating libraries also increased—from 47 to 109 over the course of the biennium.

In addition to paying annual maintenance fees, the Library Commission coordinates and supports the service, to which any legally-established Nebraska public library (serving a population under 50,000) may subscribe. Library customer demand for eBooks continues to outpace supply. To address this, the Nebraska Library Commission will seek direct state funding to expand digital book borrowing access for Nebraskans in the coming biennium.

For more information see the Library Commission OverDrive Website at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/overdrive> or contact Susan Knisely, Nebraska Library Commission Online Services Librarian, 402-471-3849 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: susan.knisely@nebraska.gov; or Devra Dragos, Nebraska Library Commission Technology & Access Services Director, 402-471-4335 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: devra.dragos@nebraska.gov. ➔

Library Commission Provides State Aid to Libraries

The Library Commission supported public libraries during the 2010 – 2012 biennium with total payments of **\$767,844 in direct state aid**, including Dollars for Data and other special incentive awards. To be eligible for state aid, libraries must be accredited by the Nebraska Library Commission, must submit their annual Public Library Statistical Report online, and their local funding must be at least equal to the lowest annual local income from the three previous years.

Direct State Aid

In 2011, 173 Nebraska public libraries earned state aid payments and ninety-three of these libraries also earned additional payments to acknowledge their achievement of enhanced or excellent accreditation status. Libraries are accredited at one of three levels: essential, enhanced, or excellent. Each level represents increased expectations regarding funding, hours open to the public, and programs and services offered. Seven libraries were able to upgrade their accreditation level from essential to enhanced status and two libraries advanced from the enhanced level to excellent status.

In 2012, 170 public libraries received state aid awards with 98 of them earning additional incentive payments for achieving an accreditation status of enhanced or excellent. The Library Commission made an additional payment of \$425 for each library with an excellent accreditation and \$200 for enhanced status in 2012. Again, seven libraries raised their accreditation status from essential to enhanced and one library upgraded their status from essential all the way to excellent.

Incentive Payments

A total of \$65,704 was awarded to public libraries during the biennium as a one-percent incentive for libraries that received additional funds from another public entity. Eighty-eight libraries qualified for these payments in 2011 and eighty-six in 2012. Also in 2012, twenty-one libraries were able to increase the amount received as support from their county governments.

Dollars for Data

The Library Commission awards incentive payments of \$250 to unaccredited libraries that complete and submit the annual Public Library Statistical Report online through Bibliostat Collect® by the published deadline. Forty-six libraries qualified for these payments in 2011 and 45 were eligible in 2012. Providing public library data is an important activity for all libraries so that the Library Commission and the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) have an accurate picture of public library service throughout Nebraska communities. Since submitting the annual survey is a necessary step toward meeting the standards of service outlined in the Guidelines for Public Library Accreditation, these libraries are closer to achieving accredited status.

For more information, contact John Felton, Planning and Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216, john.felton@nebraska.gov or Richard Miller, Library Development Director, 402-471-3175, richard.miller@nebraska.gov. ➔

IMLS Grant Recruits Future Librarians

The Nebraska Library Commission's \$721,033 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services 2010 Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program is well underway—improving the quality of library service in Nebraska through recruitment and support of promising library science students. The project, **Cultivating Rural Librarians' Technology Skills**, is equipping students with the skills to provide high-quality, individualized library customer service by awarding scholarship, internship, and stipend support to students engaged in pre-professional (associate- and bachelor's-level education) and, secondarily, master's-level education. Providing the students with value-added learning experiences designed to improve their proficiency in helping library customers develop 21st Century Learner Skills (especially technology literacy) has been a particularly rewarding component of this project. Providing the students with value-added learning experiences—such as the *NCompass Live Tech Talks* with Michael Sauers, eBook/eReader hands-on training, and a 21st Century Skills Seminar—ensures that Nebraska library staff members are proficient in helping library customers develop 21st Century skills, especially technology literacy.

The Nebraska Library Commission works to cultivate Nebraska librarians' 21st century skills through:

- Scholarships, internships, and stipends supporting pre-professional and professional education. In FY2011, sixteen scholarships totaling \$46,000 were awarded. In FY2012, forty-one scholarships totaling \$131,500 were awarded. Over the course of two years, stipends for laptop purchase were awarded to forty students; sixteen students received stipend to join professional library associations; and thirteen students received stipends to attend national or regional conferences. In FY2011, internship grants totaling \$22,750 were awarded to eighteen public libraries. In FY2012, internship grants totaling \$27,000 were awarded to nineteen public libraries.
- Value-added learning experiences—such as consultation, training,

national conference attendance, professional organization memberships, and social and face-to-face networking—ensuring that scholarship recipients build 21st century learning and technology skills that can be transferred to library customers. 147 training opportunities were presented to the scholarship students. Technology planning, medical database resources, QR codes, instructional literacy, Twitter, Google+, and leadership were topics of interest to the students. Methods of delivery included live and recorded webcasts, online learning modules, camps, conference sessions, and hands-on training. Eleven students attended national conferences on stipends.

- Recruitment of promising high school and college students and diverse library personnel—matching them with educational/employment opportunities at appropriate levels of the career/education ladder.
- A multi-faceted marketing and communication campaign raising awareness and identifying prospects for library service careers—disseminating the student learning experience. Traditional marketing strategies are enhanced with a Web-based Storybank, see <http://librarystorybank.nebraska.gov> and other Web 2.0 communication strategies to encourage online social networking, such as the Nebraska Librarians Learning Together Facebook page, see <https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaLibrarians>.

The following is an excerpt from a bachelor's-level scholarship application

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Pioneer's Progress

The Pioneer Consortium, the open source pilot project to create a cooperative library catalog, continued in this biennium with library participation growing from the initial five Nebraska public libraries to fifteen. They worked with PTFS, a content management system provider, to use open source Koha Integrated Library System software to develop a cooperative approach for Nebraska libraries to replace their online catalogs—instead of acquiring standalone systems from proprietary vendors. Two grants from the Nebraska Library Commission helped to organize and support this consortium. Eight additional public libraries received Library Improvement grants (totaling \$34,539) to support membership in the consortium. In addition, the Commission has committed to funding software development that will increase efficiency and improve the processes. Fifteen Nebraska library catalogs are now live and serving library

customers. For more information, see <http://lclpioneer.wordpress.com>. For membership questions, contact Steve Fosselman, 308-385-5333, e-mail: sf@gi.lib.ne.us. For technical questions, contact Andrew Sherman, 402-597-2050, e-mail: Andrew.sherman65@gmail.com.

Significant funding for this project was provided through a grant from the Nebraska Library Commission, funded through the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act. ♦♦



Thousands of people work in Nebraska libraries.

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n1c.NowHiringAtYourLibrary@nebraska.gov

Nebraska Library Commission

Institute of Museum and Library Services

This project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Commission Awards Training Grants

The Nebraska Library Commission awarded \$36,965 in Continuing Education and Training grants during the biennium. Awarded through a competitive grant process to public libraries, institutional libraries, and Regional Library Systems, the funds were used to provide training and continuing education to Nebraska library workers and trustees. The funding allowed library personnel to attend national and regional library meetings, including Computers in Libraries, *Library Journal* Design Institute, Mountain Plains Library Association Conference, National Center for Family Literacy Conference, and Public Library Association Conference. Grants brought in speakers to address such topics as marketing, digital media, and family literacy—helping Nebraska librarians to build 21st Century skills. The grants are representative of the Library Commission's commitment, established in its 2008-2012 LSTA Five-Year Plan, to provide Nebraskans with enhanced library and information services provided by qualified library workers. For more information contact Laura Johnson, Nebraska Library Commission Continuing Education Coordinator, 402-471-2694 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: laura.johnson@nebraska.gov. ➡

More information about grants awarded by the Nebraska Library Commission—including links to a database of recipients since 1998—is located at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/grants/>

Youth Grants Awarded

Youth Grants for Excellence totaling \$39,947 were awarded during the biennium to twenty-seven public libraries and the Regional Library Systems. The Library Commission awards the grants annually to give Nebraska libraries the opportunity to expand youth services in new directions. It is expected that this funding will provide a foundation for ongoing services that will be continued with community support or through reallocation of library

funds. Among the projects funded were teen book clubs and programming, infant programming, Youth Services Retreat for librarians, reading promotion activities, and age-specific technology, as well as science and gaming programs. For more information contact Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Children and Young Adult Library Services Coordinator, 402-471-4003 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: sally.snyder@nebraska.gov. ➡

Internship Grants Awarded

The Nebraska Library Commission and the Nebraska Library Association awarded internship grants to eighteen libraries in April 2011 and nineteen libraries in April 2012. The grants are part of the 2010 – 2014 Cultivating Rural Librarians' 21st Century Skills grant program. Interns learn about library work as they help with day-to-day operations and work on special projects. They conduct summer reading programming, make recommendations for young adult collections, write blog posts, assist customers in the computer lab, and instruct customers on how to check out and download eBooks to eReading devices.

One intern's reflection on her experience: "I learned that librarians work very hard to stay abreast of changing technology, cultures (learning and incorporating Spanish as an example), and of course books. I had no idea our library had so many on-line databases to offer."

The program is funded through a grant from the **Institute of Museum and Library Services Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian** program. A Nebraska charitable foundation which wishes to remain anonymous provided matching funds of \$10,000 through a grant to the Nebraska Library Association.

The following libraries received internship grants in one or both years:

- Arapahoe Public Library
- Bartley Public Library
- Bassett, Rock County Public Library
- Beatrice Public Library
- Blair Public Library
- Chadron Public Library
- Clearwater Public Library
- Elgin Public Library
- Howells Public Library
- Lincoln City Libraries
- McCook Public Library
- Meadow Grove Public Library
- Neligh Public Library
- Norfolk Public Library
- North Platte Public Library
- Omaha Public Library
- Ord Township Library
- Orleans, C.B. Preston Memorial Library
- Papillion, Sump Memorial Library
- Ponca Carnegie Library
- Randolph, Lied Randolph Public Library
- Rushville Public Library
- Schuyler Public Library
- Scribner Public Library
- South Sioux City Public Library
- Tilden, Raymond A. Whitwer Public Library
- Wayne Public Library ➡

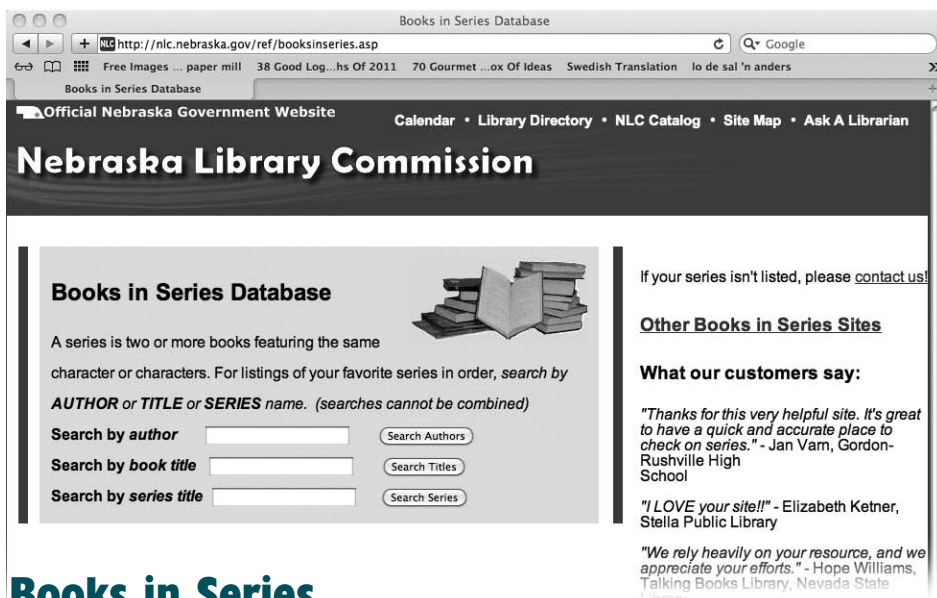
Fresh Look for Heavily Used Site

The Nebraska Library Commission rolled out a new Website in Summer 2011, with many new and improved features, including:

- Services are now arranged by topic—directly from the front page.
- Improved search engine.
- “Sticky note” reminder on the front page lists important events and deadlines.
- Merged Library Training and Events

Calendar, with a link to it on the top of every page.

- Two new features in the right sidebar of the front page: Library News (links to current newspaper/television/radio stories about Nebraska libraries) and Library Buzz (links to social network posts from Nebraska libraries).
- More user-friendly URL: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov>



Books in Series

The Library Commission's Books in Series database continues to grow in popularity. This biennium, our database grew to include more than 54,000 records and more than 50,000 librarians and readers around the country accessed this resource. Several times a month, users comment, suggest titles, and tell us how much they appreciate our service. As the new Library Commission page was updated this past year, the Books in Series webpage followed suit and this new look has been well received: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/ref/booksinseries.asp>.

Users are still able to search by author, title, or series name to find the order of the series they wish to read. For Talking Book users, digital book and cassette numbers are also listed which makes our service popular with other Talking Book providers across the country. This

database has also been extremely helpful in providing Interlibrary Loan (ILL) to our librarians and their patrons, as they need the next book in the series but aren't sure of the title. Please let us know if the series you read is not included, we'll be pleased to add it to our database. For more information contact Lisa Kelly, Information Services Director, 402-471-4015 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: lisa.kelly@nebraska.gov.

Found on Facebook:

"I love series books, and I MUST read them in order. With the release of the recent Alex Cross movie, I've had my interest sparked—but finding the first book was a challenge. Then I found this great tool on the Nebraska Library Commission's website...It's a great tool to bookmark for that next time you are wondering what to read next."



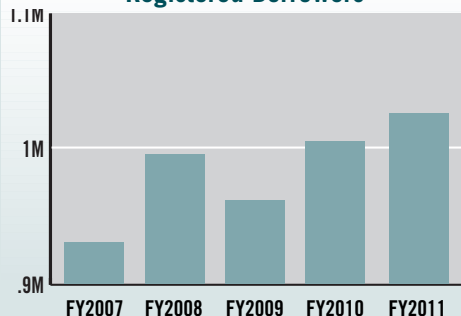
Statewide Motion Picture License Purchased

The Nebraska Library Commission funded a statewide license for public viewing of motion pictures in Nebraska public libraries during the biennium, at a cost of \$32,504. All Nebraska public libraries are covered by the license between the Library Commission and Movie Licensing USA. With this license, motion pictures were shown as part of various library services and programming at Nebraska public libraries throughout the biennium. For more information contact Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Children and Young Adult Library Services Coordinator, 402-471-4003 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: sally.snyder@nebraska.gov.

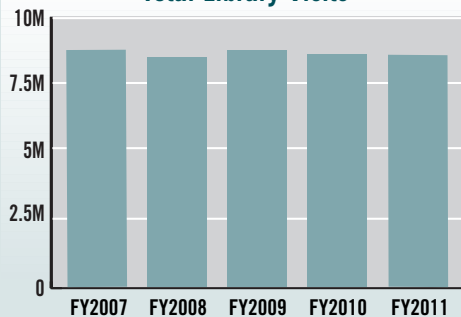


Nebraska Public Library Statistical Survey—2007-2011

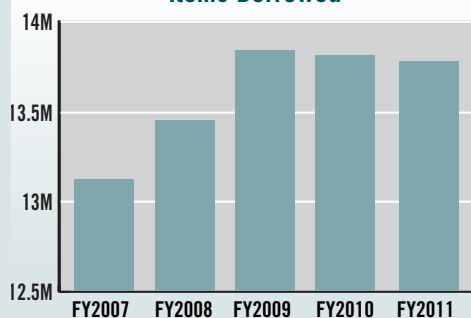
Registered Borrowers



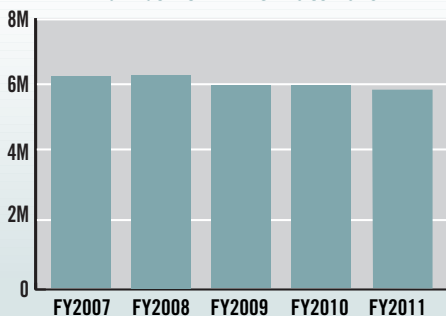
Total Library Visits



Items Borrowed



Number of Print Materials



The State of Public Libraries in Nebraska

Each year the Nebraska Library Commission collects statistical data from the public libraries in the state. This same activity is repeated in each of the other states, territories, and the District of Columbia. The national survey shares a uniform series of questions that results in an annual census of the 9,225 public libraries in the United States.

The results of the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 *Public Libraries Statistical Surveys* for Nebraska are both based on an 82% response rate and provide an updated view of library service and usage trends in the state. Both nationally and in Nebraska, circulation of library materials has fluctuated over the past five years, but recently the level of checkouts has become stable, but flat. During the period of 2006 through 2010, the total circulation increase in Nebraska was almost 5.2%, but in a comparison of 2009 to 2011, this number showed a small change of minus .4%. This trend is not necessarily an indication that use of public libraries has stagnated, because other indicators of usage have increased. It's clear that public libraries are being used for much more than just borrowing material.

Other trends revealed by the results of the Nebraska *Public Libraries Survey* include the following:

- More people are becoming registered borrowers. One reason may be the increase in the number of internet computers in libraries and the attention they have been given recently. Another possible factor is that the increase in the ownership and use of eReaders is attracting new users who want to borrow eBooks from the library.
- The number of public access Internet computers has been increasing dramatically, thanks in large part to the Gates Foundation Opportunity Online grant and the NTIA BTOP grant awarded to the Library Commission.
- The number of public libraries offering free wi-fi for the public has grown, again due to the efforts of the Nebraska Library Commission with funding from a Gates Founda-

tion grant and the *Library Broadband Builds Nebraska Communities* NTIA BTOP grant project.

- Greater numbers of library programs and increased attendance indicates that public libraries are actively engaging community members in learning events at all age levels.
- The number of eBooks in library collections continues to grow, while collections of traditional print materials are decreasing in size. This trend is causing libraries to reassess how they allocate collection resources and determine the optimum balance of print versus digital material.
- Overall circulation of material has leveled off, while other uses of the libraries have increased. (The sudden increase in circulation per capita is actually due to the decrease in population as documented by the 2010 U.S. Census.)
- There has been a small, but steady trend in the reduction of hours Nebraska libraries are open to the public. It is not clear what might be causing this change, but the number of paid staff has decreased and library revenue has seen a small decline in the past two years.
- Looking again at Internet access in public libraries, the trend in Nebraska indicates a decrease in libraries providing lower speed connections and an associated increase in the number of libraries with faster connections. This again substantiates the impact our NTIA BTOP grant has had on the ability of public libraries to offer enhanced online services.

More interesting facts about Nebraska public libraries:

- As of 2011, 88% of Nebraska libraries provide Internet access and 73% provide wireless Internet access.
- Over 50% of our public libraries offer loans of eBooks and digital audiobooks that customers can use on their eReaders and digital audio devices.
- The number of registered borrowers increased by over 6%.

(continued on next page)

The State of Public Libraries in Nebraska (continued)

- From 2009 to 2011 the number of Internet computers available to the public in libraries climbed 26.3% to 2,327 or an average of almost 9 computers for every library facility.
- Twelve Nebraska public libraries were recognized as "Star Libraries" in the 2012 *Library Journal Index of Public Library Service*. That's four more than appeared in the 2011 ranking.

Selected Nebraska Library Statistics FY 2008-2009 through 2010-2011¹

	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	3-Yr Change
Registered Borrowers	965,037	1,005,124	1,024,376	6.15%
Total Circulation	13,847,885	13,821,850	13,792,713	-0.40%
Circulation per Capita	9.44	9.34	9.48	0.40%
Internet Computers for Public Use	1,842	1,936	2,327	26.33%
Avg. Public Computers per Library	6.82	7.17	8.62	26.39%
Libraries Providing Free WiFi	185	196	199	7.57%
No. of Library Offered	24,256	24,438	25,458	4.96%
Program Attendance	585,006	615,227	639,706	9.35%
Number books held	5,956,954	5,939,616	5,819,443	-2.31%
Number print subscriptions held	14,834	14,455	14,261	-3.86%
No. of Electronic Books held	446,367	401,163	459,127	2.86%
Hours Open	420,376	418,334	413,384	-1.66%
LSA Population	1,467,119	1,479,107	1,455,451	-0.80%
Local Govt. Revenue	43,929,932	47,115,217	46,220,493	5.21%
Maximum Internet Connection Speed ²				
56Kbps	9	10	2	-77.78%
57Kbps-768Kbps	49	47	24	-51.02%
769Kbps-1.4Mbps	42	37	20	-52.38%
1.5Mbps	21	19	11	-47.62%
1.6-5Mbps	58	63	88	51.72%
6-10Mbps	39	46	57	46.15%
> 10Mbps	5	5	19	280.00%

¹ Source: Nebraska Public Libraries Survey (222 or 82% responding)

² Among the 147 NTIA BTOP grant libraries, the average broadband speed increased from 4.42 Mbps to approximately 13.62 Mbps from January 2011 through September 2012 - a 208% increase

Nebraska Public Libraries:

Provide free internet access.

88%

Provide wireless internet access.

74%

Connect to customers through social media networks like Twitter, Facebook, and blogs.

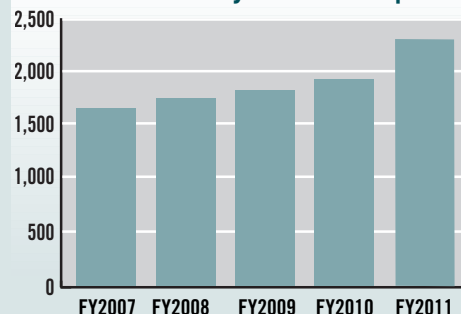
41%
AND GROWING...

Provide loans of ebooks and digital audiobooks.

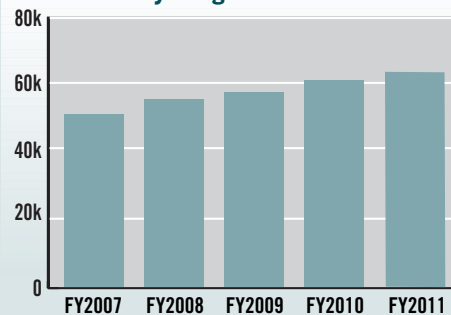
50%

Nebraska Public Library Statistical Survey-2005-2009

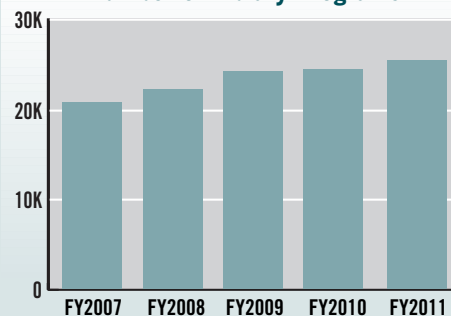
Number of Library Internet Computers



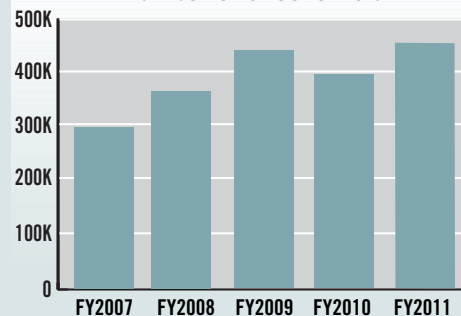
Library Program Attendance



Number of Library Programs



Number of eBooks Held



E-rate Discounts Make Telecommunications Affordable

Nebraska schools and libraries received \$22.8 million in discounts on telecommunications costs from July 1, 2010-June 30, 2012 through the Universal Service Fund (E-rate) program. Schools and libraries in the state submitted 1,653 applications for 3,271 requests.

Nebraska libraries were awarded \$434,553 in discounts. Discounts ranged from 20 to 90 percent, with 112 of the state's public libraries participating, including the Library Commission and Regional Library Systems. All received telecommunications discounts, and 54 of these libraries also received discounts on Internet services. Eighty libraries participating in the E-rate program had 60 to 70 percent discounts on their telecommunications and/or Internet access bills.

Discounts are awarded on a sliding scale based on the percentage of students in the local school district who are eligible for the free and reduced school lunch program, an indicator of the local level of need, and the County's Rural or Urban status as determined by the U.S. Census.

The Nebraska Library Commission provides education, training, and consultation services to Nebraska library staff to assist with E-rate application. For more information about the program, see <http://www.usac.org/sl/>. For more information about Nebraska library E-rate participation, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/erate/> or contact Christa Burns, Nebraska Library Commission Special Projects Librarian, 402-471-3107 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: christa.burns@nebraska.gov.

Nebraskans Advocate for Libraries

Nebraska library representatives traveled to Washington, DC, in 2011 and 2012 to participate in national library advocacy activities. Major library-related issues addressed included E-rate funding for schools and libraries, Library Services and Technology Act appropriations and re-authorization, federal funding for libraries, and school library provisions of "No Child Left Behind" legislation.

Nebraska library representatives that participated in 2011 Library

Advocacy Day activities included Robin Clark (Papillion), Sump Memorial Library Director and Nebraska Library Association Legislative Committee Chair; Sherry Crow (Kearney), Commissioner, Nebraska Library Commission; John Dale (Lincoln and Wayne), Commissioner and Chair, Nebraska Library Commission; Betty Meyer (Hebron), Nebraska Educational Media Association President; and Rod Wagner (Lincoln), Nebraska Library Commission Director.



In 2012, Nebraskans traveled to Washington, DC to provide information about library services: (l to r) Charles and Marilyn Gordon (Fremont), Francine Canfield (Ralston), Sen. Mike Johanns, Sherry Crow (Kearney), and Rod Wagner (Lincoln).



Book Club Kits and National Reading Group Month

The Library Commission developed 350 book club kits, with a total of 3,559 books available for check out to librarians and media specialists in the state, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/ref/bookclub/index.aspx>. A new and helpful feature was a request form at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/ref/bookclub/form.asp> that makes it simple to communicate with the Library Commission Information Team.

To celebrate National Reading Group Month in October 2011, many

librarians, book club leaders and participants shared their thoughts on what it means to lead and to belong to a book club, see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/resources/national-reading-group-month.html>. For more information contact Lisa Kelly, Information Services Director, 402-471-4015 or 800-307-2665, email: lisa.kelly@nebraska.gov.

Committee Advises on Customer Outreach and Needs

The Advisory Committee for the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS) makes recommendations related to programs and services and represents the needs of borrowers. Membership consists primarily of talking book users but may include librarians, educators, health care providers, and others who understand the needs of individuals with disabilities. During FY2011 and 2012, the

committee focused on ways to increase awareness of talking book services among other service providers. Outreach efforts were directed toward occupational therapists and staff of care facilities. Community health fairs and diabetes fairs offered additional opportunities for outreach.

The committee provided feedback concerning the effect of changing technology on talking book users. The new Library of Congress digital player received rave reviews. Resources for direct download from the Internet—such as BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download)—are well liked by those who are comfortable with the technology or have assistance. Home entertainment movies with audio descriptions were also impacted by changing technology, transitioning from VHS to DVD.

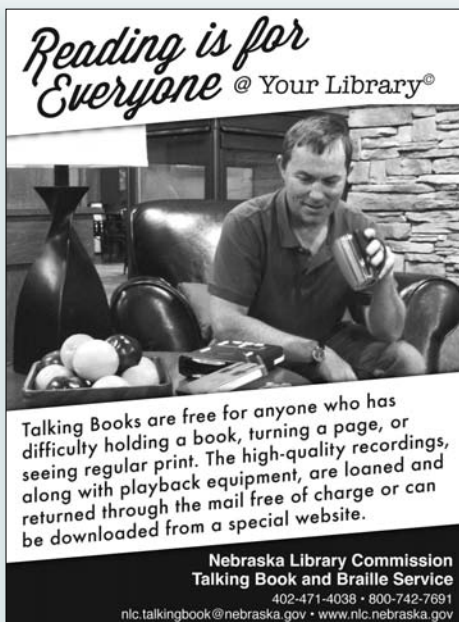
The committee felt that outreach to schools should stress the new digital technology, including direct downloads from the Internet, as well

as the advantage of the talking book program being available at no cost to the schools or students. They helped to review the results of a talking book users' survey. Topics included reading preferences for Nebraska fiction and/or nonfiction, borrowers' experiences with the new digital players, preferences for commu-

nicating with the library, and the question of time lapse between learning about the program and qualifying for service.

TBBS Advisory Committee members this biennium were:

Jim Berryman, Grand Island
Kate Borchman, Lyons
Joan Davis, North Platte
Brenda Elson, Omaha
Shelly Gray, Omaha
Marjorie Harrison, Gering
Ana Kalin, Lincoln
Robert Kalin, Lincoln
Susan Ledder, Lincoln
Linda Marie Mentink, Columbus
Brad Meurrens, Lincoln
Beth Pakiz, Omaha
Kristal Platt, Omaha
Rebecca Sims, Offutt A.F.B.
Mary Trenerry, Omaha
John Wick, Omaha



NebraskAccess Evolving

NebraskAccess is the Nebraska Library Commission's public portal leading to information databases for Nebraskans, evaluated Websites, government publications, and more. Timely information is provided through a seasonal "Hot Topics" and the "What's New" links, and "Nebraska FAQs" which are created when Information Services librarians receive the same question more than once. NebraskAccess continued to provide free, 24/7, full-text access to thousands of magazines and journals, newspaper articles, biographical information, and genealogical resources. Nebraskans logged in with either their Nebraska driver's license or a password from their local library. They used this service to complete work or school assignments, research health and medical topics, keep up on current events, trace family histories, and explore hobbies and other topics of personal interest.

The statewide subscription databases received heavy usage as shown by the number of searches done between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2012:

- FirstSearch 1,280,345
- HeritageQuest 401,109
- eLibrary 244,243
- Wilson OmniFile 2,620,294
- Wilson Biographies 347,487
- Books in Print 110,749

To use NebraskAccess go to <http://nebraskaccess.ne.gov>. For more information contact Devra Dragos, 402-471-4335 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: devra.dragos@nebraska.gov.

NebraskAccess databases are funded through the State of Nebraska and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

Commission Facilitates Websites for Public Libraries

In 2010 the Nebraska Library Commission initiated **Nebraska Libraries on the Web**, using WordPress as the Website platform and hosting the service on Library Commission servers at no charge to the libraries. The first group of eight libraries (five public libraries and three regional library systems) was trained on how to use WordPress, with the Websites live within ten weeks. Criteria for selection of the first groups of participating libraries included proximity to a training location, number of open hours, and the lack of previous Web presence.

Throughout the biennium forty-four additional libraries joined the group and their Websites are now up and running. They choose from customizable templates and receive free tech support and online, video-based training from the Library Commission. For more information see <http://libraries.ne.gov> or contact Michael Sauers, Nebraska Library Commission Technology Innovation Librarian, 402-471-3106 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: michael.sauers@nebraska.gov.

"This has been a tremendous experience so far. For me, the fact that the website hosting is paid for by the Library Commission is a wonderful gift, but the 'real person' technical support department is the real bonus. If I had chosen to have a website on my own, hosted by any number of sites, it would have worked alright, but I wouldn't have gotten any help from anyone if I ran into a problem. The personal support aspect of this project is what I think makes it truly valuable to the participants. And as librarians are creating websites they are not only creating an online presence for their libraries, they are learning new skills that make them better able to help their patrons."

—Jessica Chamberlain, NELS 

Talking Books Extends Digital Service to Schools, Care Facilities

In August 2010, the Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service began supplying schools and care facilities with digital players. Prior to this, the new digital players were offered only to individual borrowers. Outreach packets were sent to schools that had been active with the service within the previous five years. Also, a letter via email was sent to school media specialists announcing the Summer Reading Programs.


Presentations to consumer groups included the Nebraska Association of the Blind and National Federation of the Blind of Nebraska. The new digital player and books on cartridge were featured at displays at diabetes health fairs, service fairs, and community health fairs. Services were highlighted at conferences of public officials and librarians. Talking Book staff made presentations to library science classes and at public libraries, veterans' organizations, and service clubs.

Talking books were included in newspaper articles regarding One Book One Lincoln, and "Local View" op-ed letter concerning the Library Commission's studios recording Joe Starita's *"I Am a Man: Chief Standing Bear's Journey for Justice"*. "Take a Break" talking book outreach postcards were part of a Library Commission's mailing to public libraries. An article concerning Advisory Committee vacancies and talking book services appeared in the *Omaha*

World Herald, as well as other Nebraska newspapers. Talking Book and Braille Service was featured in two quarter-page ads in *Nebraska Life* magazine.

A special outreach effort was made to Nebraska occupational therapists, including two articles in that group's association newsletter. *Nebline*, a publication of UNL Extension in Lancaster County, featured these services and included Talking Book and Braille Service on its Website. Talking Books information was updated on NE 2-1-1 information and referral Website.

Talking Books hosted two segments of *NCompass Live*, including "Behind the Studio Glass: Meet the Volunteers and Staff Who Make Talking Books and Magazines" and "Now That Talking Books Are Digital: Talking Book Readers Describe a New Way of Reading." In conjunction with the first segment, staff produced a YouTube video, "Recording a Talking Book: *From Farm to Fork*."


Nebraska's Library of Congress talking book network consultant helped host a reception during National Volunteer Week that included recognition of milestones for length of service. For more information contact David Oertli, Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service Director, 402-471-4005 or 800-742-7691; e-mail: david.oertli@nebraska.gov. 

NCompass Live Wednesday Webinars Grow

The Nebraska Library Commission continues to offer free online Webinars broadcast live every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. CT.

More than 160 archived sessions are recorded and available for viewing at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/ncompasslive/>

NCArchivist.asp. To suggest a topic for an upcoming *NCompass Live* Webinar, contact Christa Burns, Nebraska Library Commission

Special Projects Librarian, 402-471-3107 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: christa.burns@nebraska.gov. 



Nebraska Memories Adds Images



Cowboys in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. George W. Johnson of Holdrege is fourth from the left in the back row.

Stroll through the decades in Nebraska Memories. One visitor left the message: "It gave me the feel for what life was like in Nebraska one hundred years ago when my grandparents started their life together in Holdrege. It gave me comforting memories." Another commented: "Fabulous to find photos I didn't think existed outside of specific locations' own historical records!"

Launched by the Nebraska Library Commission in 2005, the Nebraska Memories project continued to work with libraries, museums, historical societies, universities, and other cultural institutions to provide access to Nebraska-related primary source materials. The collection, available via a searchable database at <http://memories.ne.gov>, includes digital images of glass plate negatives, photographs, postcards, stereoscopes, sheet music, maps, and documents.

In FY2011 and FY2012, three new participating institutions added 303 digital images to the database, and two existing

participants added 465 digital images. That brought the total images available as of June 30, 2012, to 10,551.

While a few participants do the scanning and cataloging themselves, the project works with a number of small institutions with wonderful materials but without staff for digitization projects. For these institutions, Library Commis-

sion staff scan and catalog up to fifty items at no charge.

Library Commission staff wrote regular blog postings highlighting images and collections within Nebraska Memories. These postings appear on the Commission's main Web page and are archived in NCompass Blog, <http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/nlcblog/>. For more information contact Devra Dragos, 402-471-4335 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: devra.dragos@nebraska.gov, or Beth Goble, 402-471-3217 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: beth.goble@nebraska.gov. ☛



(L to r) Dr. Orwall of Brewster Clinic in Holdrege in the cockpit, Dr. Frank Brewster, "Nebraska's Flying Doctor," stands on the plane's wing, and Verna Brewster on the ground.

Photos from the collections of the Phelps County Historical Society.

NEBRASKA LEARNS 2.0



Nebraska Learns 2.0

Nebraska Learns 2.0 is the Nebraska Library Commission's online, self-directed learning program that encourages participants to experiment with and learn about the new and emerging technologies that are reshaping the way people, society, and libraries access information and communicate with each other. The first iteration of Nebraska Learns 2.0 debuted on October 1, 2008, and covered 23 "Things" (lessons) in sixteen weeks. Currently this ongoing, "a la carte" learning resource features one new "Thing" each month. Participants pick and choose which "Things" they want to do. They receive one CE credit for each "Thing" completed before the end of the month in which it was introduced.

In this biennium, 48 new participants tried 27 "Things," such as Hyperlocal Information, Foursquare, Managing Your Online Identity, Telling the Library Story with Infographics, and Stixy. In June 2011, Nebraska Learns 2.0 took a break from monthly "Things" to participate in the new international "23 Things for Professional Development" program during a seventeen-week window. Starting in February 2012, a BookThing was added to the program. Each month a title is picked that has relevance to librarianship and/or information theory. Participants are asked to read the book and answer some questions about it to earn CE credit.

To learn more see the blog at <http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/nelearns>. For more information contact Christa Burns, Nebraska Library Commission Special Projects Librarian, 402-471-3107 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: christa.burns@nebraska.gov. ☛

Commission Supports One Book for Kids/Teens

Wouldn't it be great if kids all over Nebraska were talking about books? The Nebraska Library Commission supports this program to encourage Nebraska kids and teens to read and discuss the same book with each other and with the adults in their lives. The 2011 One Book for Nebraska Kids selection was *The Last Newspaper Boy in America* by Sue Corbett. The 2012 One Book for Nebraska Teens was *Blank Confession* by Pete Hautman. The Nebraska Library Commission distributed book bag kits through the Library Commission Reference Department and Regional Library Systems.

In October 2011, two years of reading *Unwind*, by Neal Shusterman, culminated in a statewide author tour. The tour, which was composed of author visits and a writing workshop, reached a total of 3,812 Nebraskans (3,533 youth, 213 teachers, and additional 66 adults from the public), significantly exceeding our estimated total of 1,480. There were ten tour stops, stretching from Scottsbluff up to South Sioux City and down to Blair. Shusterman met overwhelmingly positive response from teens, teachers, and school administrators. The tour was sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission and Nebraska's Regional Library Systems, funded in part by the Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Humanities Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and US Bank. For more information see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/youth/obok> or contact Sally Snyder, contact information above right.



Library Commission Supports Summer Reading

The Nebraska Library Commission supported the statewide Summer Reading Program during the biennium by providing training sessions and materials. The 2011 theme was "One World, Many Stories," the teen theme was "You Are Here," and the adult theme was "Novel Destinations." The 2012 theme was "Dream Big - Read," the teen theme was "Own the Night," and the adult theme was "Between the Covers." The Library Commission provided statewide workshops, co-sponsored by the Regional Library Systems. Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Children and Young Adult Library Services Coordinator, gave book talks across the state.

The Library Commission supplied book and video lists to complement the themes. Additional materials such as public service announcements, clip art, and manuals from other states were available on the Library Commission Website. Children and teens also participated in the Summer Reading Program through the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service. As a member of the Collaborative Summer Library Program consortium, which consists of all fifty states (and the District of Columbia and two territories), the Library Commission contributes funding for development and distribution of Summer Reading Program materials to libraries across Nebraska. Members in the consortium obtain high-quality materials at lower prices, share creative ideas, and invest less time on this annual program at the state level. For more information contact Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Children and Young Adult Library Services Coordinator, 402-471-4003 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: sally.snyder@nebraska.gov.



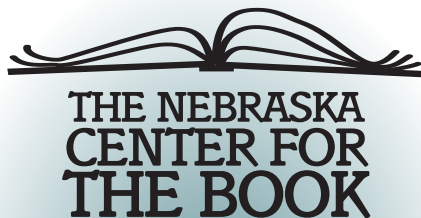
Library Commission Hosts Center for the Book

The Nebraska Library Commission provided financial and staff assistance during the biennium to the Nebraska Center for the Book, which brings together the state's readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars to build the community of the book. The Library Commission supported the following projects:

Nebraska Book Festival. The festival was held twice during the biennium at the Nebraska State Historical Society's Nebraska History Museum, in downtown Lincoln. Events featured author readings, award presentations, exhibits, panel discussions, music, and vendors. The festival was jointly sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Library Commission, Nebraska Humanities Council, and the Nebraska State Historical Society, with additional support from University of Nebraska Press, Woods Charitable Fund, *Prairie Fire* Newspaper, and nuVibe Juice and Java.

Jane Geske Award. *Plainsongs* poetry magazine (2010) and Greg Kosmicki and The Backwaters Press (2011) were presented the Jane Geske Award. The award—a piece of art by a Nebraska artist—is given annually to honor exceptional contribution to literacy, books, reading, libraries, bookselling, and writing in Nebraska. The award pays tribute to Jane Pope Geske, former director of the Nebraska Library Commission, founding member of the Nebraska Center for the Book and long-time active member in many Nebraska library and literary activities.

Mildred Bennett Award. Charles (Chuck) Peek (2011) of Kearney and Laureen Riedesel (2012) of Beatrice were recognized for significant contribution to the fostering of the literary tradition in Nebraska, places, and people. They demonstrated leadership and service in the promotion of Nebraska literature—following in the footsteps of Mildred Bennett, the charismatic founder and long-time President of the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational Foundation.



Nebraska Book Awards.

Nebraska books were honored in the categories of anthology, children/young adult, cover/design/illustration, fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. To be eligible for nomination, books must be written by Nebraska authors, published in Nebraska, or set in Nebraska. For a complete list of winners, see centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/awards/winners/nebook.html.

NCB News. Library Commission staff helped develop and distribute four editions of the Center for the Book newsletter. To access the newsletters, see centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/news.html

National Book Festival. Library Commission staff members Mary Jo Ryan and Devra Dragos joined Lois Meyer and Sherry Houston, of the Nebraska Center for the Book Board; Erika Hamilton, of the Nebraska Humanities Council; and volunteers from the Junior League of Washington, DC to staff the Nebraska exhibit at the Pavilion of the States in Washington, DC. They greeted more than 5,000 visitors during the festival—held each year of the biennium.

National Idea Exchange. Each year the Library Commission provided financial assistance for Nebraska Center for the Book volunteers to represent the Center for the Book at

the National Idea Exchange events in Washington, DC. This information-sharing activity keeps the board apprised of what's happening at the national Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and at the state Centers for the Book around the country.

Letters about Literature. Each year Nebraska students were recognized by Governor Dave Heineman for their letters to influential authors. This annual national reading/writing contest invites young readers to write a letter to an author explaining how his or her work changed their way of thinking about the world or themselves.

Celebration of Nebraska Books.

Each year this celebration featured the current One Book One Nebraska book selection, honored winners of the Jane Geske and Nebraska Book Awards, and announced the choice for the next One Book One Nebraska reading program. Winning authors read from their books and signed copies. The Nebraska Center for the Book Annual meeting was held just prior to the celebration, with a reception concluding the event.

One Book One Nebraska. The Commission supported the One Book One Nebraska program—assisting with selection and promotion of a title for Nebraska citizens to read to celebrate the literary richness of our state. In 2011, the book was *Local Wonders: Seasons in the Bohemian Alps* by Ted Kooser and “I Am a Man:” *Chief Standing Bear's Journey for Justice* was the 2012 selection. Nebraska libraries and other literary and cultural organizations across the state hosted activities and events to encourage all Nebraskans to read and discuss the same book (see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/onebook.html> and related article about One Book for Kids/Teens on page 14).

For more information about Center for the Book activities, contact Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Library Commission Communications Coordinator, 402-471-3434 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov. ☛

United for Libraries



United for Libraries Emerges Strong

Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA) and the Association for Library Trustees and Advocates (ALTA) joined forces to become an expanded division of ALA known as the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations, now **United for Libraries**. Through this partnership, **United for Libraries** brings together library voices to speak out on behalf of library services and free public access to information.

United for Libraries is a national network of enthusiastic library supporters who believe in the importance of libraries as the social and intellectual centers of communities and campuses—educating and organizing the strongest voice for libraries: those who use them, raise money for them, and govern them.

The Library Commission supports membership to **United for Libraries** for all of the state's public libraries to ensure that Nebraska library staff, friends, trustees, and foundations can take advantage of services to enhance fund raising, advocacy, and public awareness. For more information see the **United for Libraries** Website at <http://www.ala.org/united/about> or contact Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission Director, 402-471-4001 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: rod.wagner@nebraska.gov.



Library Commission Facilitates Training

The Nebraska Library Commission continued a long-standing commitment to support improved library service in the state by providing numerous continuing education opportunities for library personnel. From July 2010 through June 2012, thousands of library workers attended hundreds of continuing education events sponsored or underwritten by the Nebraska Library Commission. Included were Basic Skills classes, provided by the Library Commission and held in online format via the Nebraska Library Commission **NCampus** project, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/ce/ncampus.aspx>. Librarians participating in the Nebraska Librarian Certification Program successfully completed Basic Skills classes or attended formal education or training covering equivalent subject matter. *NCompass Live*, a series of weekly Webinars on a variety of topics were offered each week. The Library Commission continues to encourage continuing education and professional development for Nebraska library staff through continuing education grants for educational programs and to help underwrite costs for attendance at regional and national conferences.

Nebraska Library Commission Continuing Education Coordinator Laura Johnson provided information on the Library Commission Blog to Nebraska librarians so that they could take advantage of free Webinars offered by other state libraries.

Other highlights of continuing education activities provided by the Library Commission included:

- Database Roadshows at locations around the state with hands-on practice, featuring enhancements and upgrades to the new NebraskaAccess Website and databases
- Colloquium events coordinated and arranged for by the Eastern and Southeast Library Systems
- Sessions across Nebraska on WebJunction and technology planning for public libraries
- Classes on Web 2.0 topics including 2.0 Library Marketing, Twitter, Foursquare, Linux, Library Facebook pages, Google +, BookThing, Pinterest, and Library Professional Development
- Cataloging Workshops provided via Webinar
- Hands-on eBook/eReader/Overdrive training provided across the state
- Sessions on the local library role in community development
- Marketing library services
- Summer Reading Programs and other specialized services for children and youth, including Read Aloud Nebraska
- Assisting library customers with online government information
- Technology Planning
- E-rate Training

Contact Laura Johnson for more information about Library Continuing Education, see contact information on page 6.



Commission Supports Regional Library Systems

The Library Commission provided \$1,211,510 in continuing financial support for Nebraska's six Regional Library Systems during the biennium. These nonprofit organizations worked to improve library services through cooperation between all types of libraries and media centers within each System area. With the support of the Library Commission, the Regional Library Systems provided to member libraries:

Resource Sharing – Among items loaned were book discussion kits, videos, laptops and projectors, Wii gaming kits, Playaway books, professional journals and magazines, storytelling kits, iPods and MP3 players, eReaders, laminator, binding system, Poetry kits, Spanish kits, DVD players, cutting machines and dies, and scanners.

Consultation – System administrators consulted on numerous topics with member libraries, including weeding, collection development, E-rate discounts, personnel policies, automation systems, interlibrary loan, computer security, censorship, and data collection. They communicated with member libraries in person and through newsletters, Websites, flyers, e-mail, listservs, Facebook pages, and annual meetings.

Continuing Education – The Systems partnered with the Library Commission to present sessions on Trustee Training and Board Development, leadership (including the Library Leadership Institute and reunions), children's services (including summer reading programs), book repair, library ethics, intellectual freedom, library collection development, eBooks/Ereaders, vod and pod casting, and LibraryThing. They facilitated annual meetings, specialized meetings and training for public library directors and youth services librarians, workshops on automation software, and sessions at Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association (NLA/NEMA) conferences.

Administrators arranged for a variety of national speakers to come to Nebraska. They sponsored scholarships for local librarians to attend workshops and staffed exhibit booths to educate stakeholders about library services.

NEBRASKA Regional Library Systems

Biennium Regional Library System Highlights:

Eastern

- Sponsored or cosponsored continuing education including School Librarian Day, Youth Services Retreat (in cooperation with the Southeast Library System), Summer Reading Program, customer service, and technology workshops
- Facilitated regular meetings of system groups including DIRECT (public library directors and CLICK (youth services librarians)
- Cosponsored Colloquium sessions with Southeast Library System
- Consulted with and visited libraries around the system
- Facilitated Sarpy County Library meetings

Meridian

- Sponsored or cosponsored continuing education on a variety of topics, including book repair, teen services, and marketing library public computer centers
- Consulted with and visited libraries around the system, including all the northern libraries in one visit
- Worked with several libraries on major weeding projects
- Provided orientation for new library directors
- Presented the last of the face-to-face Basic Skills courses

Northeast

- Provided 57 workshops, in partnership with other organizations, with 1,456 people attending
- Loaned 1,170 items to libraries including book sets, professional journals, DVDs and eReaders
- Consulted with libraries, making 151 visits and traveling nearly 15,000 miles
- Presented Webinars on a variety of library service topics
- Offered day-long Winter Workshops each year—each with numerous sessions and more than 60 attendees
- Sponsored Week of Weeding to educate about collection management

Panhandle

- Provided Jobalike sessions and public librarian meetings for networking and idea sharing
- Facilitated author tours
- Helped libraries improve their collections by assisting with weeding and collection development projects, adding materials to the professional resources collection, routing professional journals, adding resources to LibraryThing, and creating a rotating DVD collection with a grant from the Library Commission
- Circulated books, videos, iPod, inventory scanner, journals, book bags, binding system, laminator, and Wii gaming kit
- Helped Panhandle libraries join Nebraska Libraries on the Web

(continued on page 19)

From the Director... (continued)

The Library Broadband Builds Nebraska Communities project is one of many programs, projects, and events highlighted in the Nebraska Library Commission's Biennium in Review report covering the past two fiscal years (2010 – 2012). Some of the challenges and successes include the Commission's new Website with many new features and extensive content; the Talking Book and Braille Services transition to new digital talking book players and conversion to digital recordings; the rapid growth in the number of libraries providing downloadable eBook and audio-book services; the number and variety of online educational programs and participation in these programs; Technology Planning Summer Camps; Tech Rodeo; and scholarships, internships, and support for library science education.

In reflecting back over the past two years we acknowledge the service and dedication of the thousands of library workers, trustees, friends, and advocates who strive to offer exceptional service to Nebraskans.

Rod Wagner ♦♦



Nebraska librarians and scholarship students learn about helping library customers use eBooks at Norfolk workshop.

Council Aids Commission

The State Advisory Council on Libraries was established by the Nebraska Library Commission to advise on statewide library development, planning, and federal library programs—including providing input on the LSTA Five-Year Program Evaluation and the 2013-2017 LSTA Long-Range Plan. The members represent all types of libraries and all areas of Nebraska. They consist of library professionals, paraprofessionals, supporters, and customers. Due to Commission budget cuts, the Council conducted some meetings via Webinar this biennium. They met six times, traveling to Kearney, Grand Island, and Lincoln.

State Advisory Council members during the biennium included:

Robin Bernstein, Freeman-Lozier Library, Bellevue University

Patty Birch, North Platte High School

Pam Bohmfalk, Hastings Public Library, NLA Liaison

Kate Borchman Hassebrook, Lyons

Francine Canfield, Baright Public Library, Ralston

Deb Carlson, Lied Scottsbluff Public Library

Ceri Daniels, Cline, Williams, Wright, Johnson and Oldfather, LLP, Lincoln

Beth Falla, Lied Imperial Public Library

Steve Fosselman, Grand Island Public Library

Joan Giesecke, Love Memorial Library, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Cindy Gitt, Holdrege Public Library

Denise Harders, Republican Valley Library System, Hastings

Jayne Hlavac, Schuyler Central High School

Sherry Houston, Papillion

Pat Leach, Lincoln City Libraries

Marty Magee, National Network/Library of Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha

Trine McBride, Wayne

Betty Meyer, Thayer Central Community Schools, Hebron, NEMA Liaison

Vickie Retzlaff, Grant County Library, Hyannis

Janet Stoeger Wilke, Ryan Library, University of Nebraska at Kearney

Christine Walsh, Kearney Public Library, NLA Liaison

Susan Warneke, Norfolk

Ellen Weed, Norfolk Regional Center

Kara Welch, Ainsworth Community Schools

Glenda Willnerd, Lincoln Public Schools, NEMA Liaison

Merrillene Wood, Learning Resource Center, Western NE Community College-Sidney

Frank Zimmerman, Auburn ♦♦

IMLS Grant Recruits Future Librarians (continued)

submitted by a student who had been awarded a previous scholarship at the associate's level. It exemplifies the impact this scholarship program can have on a student.

"I never dreamed a scholarship could do so much for a person but this scholarship has provided more than tuition for my courses. With the 21st Century scholarship I had the opportunity to purchase a laptop for my on-line lessons. The stipend also offers the

chance to go to a conference and workshops that are excellent learning tools. The **Nebraska Librarians Learning Together Facebook Page** has provided good networking opportunities with other students and librarians across the state. The Nebraska Library Commission's webinars are excellent learning aids for both my education and work at the public library. I can share what I have learned with my co-workers and patrons." ♦♦

Commission Supports Regional Library Systems (continued)

- Facilitated training, including joint workshops with NEMA, other systems, and the Library Commission (Basic Skills, Summer Reading, Database Roadshows and a variety of Technology-related sessions)
- Implemented a shared automation project with 15 libraries

Southeast

- Provided consultation on over 60 topics, including tracking library customer reading, bedbugs, automation systems-ILS, privacy, consent agendas, legislative issues, personnel, medical resources, and weeding
- Provided continuing education to 1,228+ attendees on more than 110 topics including: eBooks & OverDrive; QR Codes; Virtual Author & Illustrator visits; Cloud Computing; Security & Openness Online; Mobile Technology; Tablet Devices; Booktalks; Tech Tools; Art of Bookmaking; Personnel Issues; ALA Prisoners' Right to Read Statement; and Bing vs. Google

- Hosted the NEMA/SELS workshops for school librarians
- The SELS van travelled more than 9,000 miles and carried over 40 passengers each year.
- Collaborated on projects with more than fifteen community and library organizations
- Hosted the Training Extravaganza

Republican Valley

- Provided consultation, including driving nearly 7,000 miles and making 175 library visits
- Facilitated author visits and workshops about the Summer Reading Program, marketing for public libraries, encouraging boys to read, Webpage development with WordPress, and book repair
- Attended 67 meetings, workshops, open houses, and ribbon-cuttings
- Coordinated purchase of 84 puppets and other cooperative purchases
- Circulated more than 1,000 books and journals



Library Improvement Grants Funded

The Library Commission awarded Library Improvement grants totaling \$181,082 to twenty library entities, selected through a competitive grant process to facilitate development of library programs and services. Funding is provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). Libraries match the grant with local funding. Funded projects included:

- Eight grants to libraries to join the Pioneer Consortium, an open-source, statewide project to create a cooperative library catalog (public libraries in Atkinson, Bennington, David City, Grant, Papillion, Stromsburg, Superior, and Valparaiso)
- A grant to build a portable V-Screen (aka, "Green screen") production studio (McCook Public Library)
- Grants to five of Nebraska's six regional library systems to provide eReaders for demonstration and training purposes
- A grant for a Peek-A-Book Interactive Kiosk to encourage early reading (Omaha Public Library)
- A grant for a multi-type library consortium in the Panhandle region (Panhandle Library System)
- A grant for acquiring X-Box and a large-screen television for youth services (Lied Pierce Public Library)
- A grant to replace a library automation system (Valentine Public Library)
- A grant to provide a retractable viewing screen for a public library/senior center (Wayne Public Library)
- A grant to provide technology improvements (Bennington Public Library)
- A grant to produce a video in a number of non-English languages to welcome refugees to the library (Omaha Public Library)
- A grant to develop software to be shared among Pioneer Consortium member libraries (Lincoln City Libraries)

For more information, contact Richard Miller, contact information on page 4.



Are you missing out on important library information?
Subscribe to the Nebraska Library Commission's *NCompass E-Newslist* for weekly access to information about Nebraska library activities.
<http://eepurl.com/HSkX>

A weekly news sheet from the Nebraska Library Commission, <http://nlc.nebraska.gov>

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Nebraska Library Commission

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Nebraska Library Commission Highlights and Statistics July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2012

- ☞ The Nebraska Library Commission circulated **8,287** items.
- ☞ The Library Commission served **6,946** customers onsite.
- ☞ The Library Commission loaned **614** items to other libraries.
- ☞ The Nebraska Library Commission borrowed **16,322** items from other libraries for Nebraska customers.
- ☞ Nebraska Overdrive Group library customers downloaded **111,279** audio books and **100,740** eBooks.
- ☞ The Library Commission's Nebraska Memories collection grew to **10,551** images.
- ☞ **4,740** state documents were added to the Library Commission's collection, bringing the total to **160,154**.
- ☞ **105** federal documents were added to the Library Commission's collection, bringing the total to **49,831**.
- ☞ **1,456** electronic state documents were added, bringing the total of state e-docs to **5,703**. These e-docs were accessed **464,763** times.
- ☞ Nebraska Library Commission staff and guest trainers broadcast **101** *NCompass Live* sessions, with **2,018** attending and thousands viewing the archived recordings.
- ☞ The Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service circulated **339,592** talking books, magazines, Braille materials, and videos with audio description to **3,683** customers.
- ☞ The Talking Book and Braille Service recorded **300** magazine issues and **38** books.
- ☞ The Talking Book and Braille Service duplicated **28,439** audio cassettes and **38,083** flash memory cartridges.
- ☞ Talking Book and Braille Service customers downloaded **21,642** audio books and **592** audio magazines.
- ☞ **6,029** Nebraska library staff and board members attended **649** continuing education events sponsored or underwritten by the Nebraska Library Commission, including **272** who participated in Basic Skills sessions.
- ☞ **173** public libraries were accredited.

